



## **McGregor W. Scott**

United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel (916) 554-2700  
TTY (916) 554-2855

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Fresno*  
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel (559) 497-4000  
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**September 24, 2007**

Contact: David Gappa 559-497-4020

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

### **FRESNO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING, DISTRIBUTING, AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that RAYMOND WILLIAM RONELL Jr., 43, of Fresno, California, pleaded guilty today, without an agreement with the government, before the Honorable Lawrence J. O'Neill to three offenses: using a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of that conduct, for which he faces a potential prison term of between 15 and 30 years; receipt or distribution of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors, for which he faces a potential prison term of between five and 20 years; and possession of material depicting the sexual exploitation of minors, for which he faces a maximum prison term of ten years. For each of the three charges, he faces a potential maximum fine of \$250,000 and a potential lifetime term of supervised release.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, the Fresno Police Department began a child abduction investigation on November 25, 2005, when they were alerted about the disappearance of a twelve-year-old Fresno female. The minor was returned to her home later that day, and RONELL became a suspect in her disappearance. As part of their investigation, detectives examined a digital camera in RONELL's vehicle. They were able to recover previously-deleted sexually explicit images that RONELL had taken of the minor. They also obtained a search warrant for his residence and seized five computer hard drives, various electronic storage media, and other computer media used to store digital images. Subsequent forensic review of that material by Fresno Police Department high-tech investigators revealed several thousand images and/or movie files of child pornography, including images of children younger than five being sexually abused by adult males. The Fresno office of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit, assisted in the investigation and prosecution of RONELL.

There was no plea agreement in this case. The defendant's actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

RONELL has been in custody, as a danger to the community and a flight risk, since his arrest on November 25, 2005.

###